

WM. M. OVERTON AND CH. MAURICE SMITH.
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

OCTOBER 14, 1853.

OUR EXCHANGES.

WE HAVE BEEN so short a time in operation that it has not yet been possible to perfect all our arrangements. Our exchange list has not, thus far, been properly regulated—but our directions to those having control of that department of the paper, have been to send the *Sentinel* to all papers that have manifested any disposition to exchange with us—particularly, and as a matter of right, to all papers in which our prospects were published.

For important foreign news, see telegraphic column.

We publish, in another column, a very interesting communication on New York politics from a gentleman of the Empire State, who has had every opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the subject of which he speaks. It is written in a plain and condensed style—without passion and apparently without prejudice. We would commend it to our readers, for it will repay an attentive perusal.

NAVAL REFORM.

Telegraphic dispatches from Norfolk state that the United States steamship *Alleghany*, which had lately undergone extensive alterations and repairs, returned from her trial trip in a disabled condition, and was pronounced by her engineer wholly unfit for service. Before she was disabled she only made five-and-a-half knots an hour, with the aid of her sails. The *Norfolk Argus* confirms the substance of the telegraphic statement, and says that the effective force of the *Alleghany's* engines were not sufficient to prevent her from drifting ashore in Elizabeth river, and her sails had to be used to prevent such a catastrophe.

This mortifying and disgraceful failure reminds us of a subject that we have long considered of vital importance to the country—one which we have already alluded to in our journal, and which we always intended to discuss at an early day, as fully and as thoroughly as our information and ability would permit. We mean the subject of naval reform.

There is a vast amount of antiquated ideas, of cumbersome and useless machinery, and of worthless and offensive rubbish in and about the government, which no executive, however honest and zealous, can remove without the aid of Congressional action. And in no branch of the public service is progress, improvement and reform more needed than in our naval system, by means of which an enormous tax is levied on the people in order to purchase mortification and disgrace.

We have full confidence that the Secretary of the Navy earnestly desires to sweep away existing abuses, and will do all he can to impart vigor and efficiency to our national marine. But he is, to a great extent, fettered and manacled by the requirements of a worn out, effete, and rotten system, that he cannot remove without the aid of Congress. Yet Mr. Dobbin may do much. There is a field—a wide field—for his exertion, in which he can win the applause of the country, and deserve its gratitude as a public benefactor. He can correct many bad customs and evil practices; but, above all, he can disregard the specious pliancies of those who are interested in preserving the existing order of things; he can listen to those who have the honor of the navy at heart; and he can lay open to the view of Congress and the country the true condition of that branch of the public service over which he presides, and point out remedies for the leprosy and consuming disorders that are preying upon it, and eating out its pith and substance.

The whole world is astonished at the rapid progress of our merchant marine, and the improvements which the talent and enterprise of our citizens have accomplished in maritime architecture. Yet our national marine stands where it stood forty years ago; scoring every improvement, and deriding all progress. Even the application of steam, which has wrought such wonders, has been practically worthless to our navy, notwithstanding the vast sums the government has squandered in futile attempts to avail itself of the genius of Fulton. The failure of the *Alleghany* is but one in an almost unbroken series of failures. It is not an exception; but harmonizes and accords in all its essential features with an entire brood—the offspring of a worthless system, and an impotent organization. Yet the same genius and talent, which private enterprise calls into service with such wonderful results, are ready to serve the government, and stand prepared to meet its summons. The government has ample means and abundant resources, yet it cannot utter that summons. This seems strange, yet it is true, nevertheless; and suggests the inquiry: Why is it that the government cannot avail itself of the genius and talent of the country, and keep pace with the improvements of the age, as well as private individuals and associations?

The answer to this question, when fully made, will set forth the many evils of that worn out system which is fast decaying in the navy in public estimation, and which, if not speedily reformed—radically and thoroughly reformed—will inevitably alienate many of its warmest and truest friends. The limits of a single article do not permit the examination of details; but we shall constantly renew this subject, and use every effort in our limited power to sustain and uphold the navy by aiding in pointing out those evils under which it labors, and by sustaining all who desire to make it worthy of the nation. We know that the task of a reformer is a difficult one, and calls down the denunciations of those who are the honest slaves of ancient prejudices as well as of the mercenary crew that always cluster around and batten on abuses.

The first great step is, and must be, to reform the personnel of the navy, and provide definite and distinct rules for its government. When that is done, and not until that is done, we may reasonably expect progress and improvement in our naval architecture. Experience is gained in youth and vigorous manhood. Age clings to its prejudices, and binds itself to the dead corpse of the past—disturbing everything new as impracticable, rash, and reckless. The men who fill the high places in our present naval

system were ornaments to the service in their generation; but their generation has passed away, and many of them do not understand and appreciate, and cannot apply, the improvements and discoveries of a younger race, who have the benefit of all their knowledge. But, yet, they should not be without honor for their past services to the republic, nor left in their old age without due provision by the government.

PENNSYLVANIA—BRILLIANT DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

The old "Keystone" has spoken in a voice not to be misunderstood. Firm and unflinching, she occupies the dividing line between the north and the south. Her sturdy, common-sense democracy intermeddles with the domestic political disputes of no other State, and permits none outside the limits of the old commonwealth to interfere with its family quarrels. The division in the democratic party of New York is a matter of regret, but the wounds it has inflicted should have been left to the care of its own physicians. Foreign interference would do no good, and may do much harm. Several journals in that State have, for some weeks, been suggesting that danger was to be apprehended in Pennsylvania, that *freedomism* was at work, encouraged by the scenes passing in her neighborhood, and that the democratic party might be defeated. The very reverse has been shown to be the fact by the result of the election on Tuesday last.

The latest news we have received authorizes us to say that this victory achieved by the democratic party of Pennsylvania is among the most brilliant on record in that noble old commonwealth. The State ticket has been elected by a majority of upwards of *twenty thousand*. And there will be a gain in both branches of the legislature. This result will secure a democratic majority in the senate, which has been under whig misrule, by an accidental majority of one, for several years—and will ensure a large majority on joint ballot. Pennsylvania can now be endorsed by acclamation—by one universal burst of enthusiasm from the border States of the Eastern Atlantic to our young sisters of the Pacific—and from the shores of the northern lakes to the Carolinas, as the "keystone of the federal arch." She was honored with that significant name at the early democratic christening of States, and nobly has she maintained it.

It is cheering in these times of *cliques* and *factions* to speak of Pennsylvania and her lion-hearted democracy. If we had room, we could write columns instead of lines, in tracing their sterling integrity, their unalloyed devotion to principles and measures, since the first battle was fought upon a democratic platform. But we are compelled now to confine ourselves to the present, and ask our friends in other States to rejoice with us in the glorious victory achieved in the "Keystone State," which will have the effect of putting down, forever, the last vestige of *freedom* or *abolitionism* within its borders. Pennsylvania's democracy was temporarily borne back by one of those political avalanches which suddenly overthrow everything *unwisely* opposed to them; but the moment the national convention of 1852 placed a new commander in the field, it gallantly prepared for the approaching contest.

Although the democratic yeomanry are willing to be called a plain, simple-minded people, yet they claim to be possessed of common sense, as well as a proper share of discernment, and that at once, with a united voice, united hearts, and strong, nervous and united arms, took into their embrace the gallant leader given to them as the nominee of the democratic party. They saw in Franklin Pierce the firmness, the stern integrity, the sparks of fire which illumined the character of Andrew Jackson, whose name and fame still rests in the heart's core of their affections, and they buckled on their armor and fought for General Franklin Pierce as they had fought in the days of Old Hickory.

General Pierce carried the State by a majority of 19,000! Seven trying months of his administration have now passed away, and he is strong as ever—firmly seated in the confidence of his true-hearted democracy, who have just given the best evidence of the fact, by re-endorsing the principles of democracy upon which his administration is based. The flag-staff of Pennsylvania is now firmly planted as the ocean-rock—its colors are flung to the breeze, and on its ample folds there is inscribed—*No North—no South—no East—no West under the Constitution—but a firm adherence to the common bond, and a sacred maintenance of the common brotherhood.*

THE UNION—THE SECRETARY OF WAR—OURSELVES.

The Union yesterday republishes from our columns of Wednesday the letters of the Secretary of War, prefacing them with these comments:

"The following correspondence, which we copy from the *Sentinel* of yesterday morning, and the substance of which appears to have been occasioned by an editorial statement in that journal, will be read with interest. We transfer it to our columns with pleasure, as giving still further proof of what is already too manifest for any possibility of doubt—that the President and his cabinet advisers are united as one man in a cordial approval of the policy of the administration, and the view of the Union democracy on which it is founded."

The form and manner of this prefatory requires us to make the following explanation, so that there may be no mistake about our position.

The editorial statement alluded to by the *Union*, was, as our readers are aware, couched in the following words:

"We have heard it confidently stated that Hon. Jefferson Davis has made expressions hostile to Messrs. Bronson and O'Connor, and in favor of the freedom faction in New York. We cannot believe that any one of ordinary intelligence would give credence to such a senseless report; but if there be any such, we have the most direct and positive authority for saying that they who have attributed such expressions to the Secretary of War have willfully and designedly misrepresented him."

This statement was made after a conversation with Mr. Davis himself; and the fault he finds with it is: not that it represented him as indignantly repudiating the rumor that he was hostile to Messrs. Bronson and O'Connor; he objects to it because, and only because, we spoke of "the freedom faction in New York." Mr. Davis apprehending, without reason, we think, that the impression might be conveyed that he denounced the "soft shell" party as "freedom factionists." That is the sum and substance of the matter. We chose to call the bruiser party "freedom factionists" under the conviction that the organization is under *freedom* control, and that the great bulk of its supporters are unrepentant *Buffalo* convention men—the honest hunkers that have gone over being only a *deep* in the bucket.

FREESOIL ATTACK ON JUDGE MASON, OUR NEW MINISTER TO FRANCE.

In these times of degeneracy and demoralization, the best men are the best abused men. Those who are most conversant with billings-gate are the freesoilers, and of these the New York freesoilers at present surpass all the rest of that malignant and scurrilous tribe. But the extent and rancorous bitterness of their venom is never completely manifested until they find a southern man—a national democrat—a true and pure patriot—to asperse and vilify.

True to all its instincts and all its affinities, that leader of the freesoil press and of the Van Buren party in New York, the *Evening Post*, has greeted the announcement of Judge Mason's appointment to the French mission, with a most vindictive and libellous attack. Disappointed—maddened—in consequence of the failure of General Dix, a brother freesoiler, to get the post, it violently assails Judge Mason, who was the innocent cause of the great disappointment. Is this, or is it not, an attack from the leading freesoil press of New York, on the "policy," as they call it now-a-days, of the President and of the administration? Had General Dix been appointed, the Post would have been delighted. Had any other freesoiler received the office, it would have experienced the same satisfaction and pleasure. But, when Judge Mason—a southern man, an anti-abolitionist, an anti-freesoiler, is appointed, the Post breaks out in complaint of the administration and in abuse of its appointee.

Will not the eyes of people be opened? Are they stone-blind? We fear they are, unless this exhibition of the temper and spirit of the leading Van Buren press removes the scales from their eyes. It is useless for any one to say that the *Evening Post* is not the leading press of the barnburning freesoil party. All know that it is, and we doubt not that all of the freesoilers of New York—that party which opposes Dickinson and the noble band of national democrats and patriots who adhere to him—share in the wounded feelings of the Post.

It is needless for us to pay compliments and pass eulogiums on Judge Mason. He has filled many high public offices—more, perhaps, than any other man in the country. He has been honored by the people—by his State legislature and by the national government—with high official position. He is known to the nation. His history, his antecedents, are all known. He has the confidence of the people and of the administration. But he lacks the confidence of the New York freesoil party. This we regard as the strongest evidence of his truthfulness as a man, and his soundness as a politician.

We subjoin the following extract from the *Richmond Enquirer* of yesterday, in relation to the appointment of Judge Mason:

Minister to France.
By the appointment of Judge Mason to the French mission, the administration have secured the services of one among the most faithful and competent statesmen in the country. In the various positions of judge in the federal court, member of Congress, Attorney General, Secretary of the Navy, President of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia, not to mention other subordinate but not less responsible offices, Judge Mason has displayed a sagacity, a patience of investigation, an equality of temper, a dexterity in dissipating difficulties, and a general capacity for public business, which no man in the country excels. In the Spring of last year, when the possibility of a diplomatic mission to France was in the air, Judge Mason was the first to suggest it, and with the utmost facility and propriety, and with the least parade of personal pretension.

In accepting the appointment of minister to France, Judge Mason makes a sacrifice of personal convenience to a sense of public duty. So far from being a candidate for the place, either directly or indirectly, he received the intelligence of his nomination with surprise and delight. Nor did he determine to accept the position until he had ascertained that it was not a mere honorarium, but a real and useful service to the country.

GAG-LAW—DICTATORS—FLATTERERS.

What will be the result of the present condition of political affairs in New York? Clouds and darkness hang around it. Men who recently acted together are now severed. It was a union of policy, not of principle. The lion and the lamb lay down together. The freesoiler and the national democrat embraced one another. They gained a splendid triumph. They carried dismay and consternation into the ranks of their old enemies—the whigs. But victory revived old differences and animosities, as will always be the result of forced combinations between honest men and bad men. Chaos has come again in New York. But we should not despair. He who carried our standard in November still lives. He is the same in his feelings, his sympathies, and convictions that he ever was. All good democrats must look to him as their rallying point; and it is a beautiful illustration of the attachment of the democracy to him, that amid all the discounts that prevail, not one word of unkindness has been uttered against President Pierce.

It is in vain for any man or any press to attempt to convince the American people that those who complain of bad advisers are dissatisfied with him. It is our duty, as faithful chroniclers of the events of the times, and as friends of truth, to look things full in the face, and to state honestly our impressions and opinions in respect to them—we therefore say that whatever may be the dissatisfaction of many of the best democrats of the country with those whom they regard as the fawning sycophants, and ill-advisers of the President—their enthusiastic attachment to the President, and their confidence in his integrity, purity and patriotism are unabated.

To our democratic friends of the national stamp, particularly in New York, we beg leave to say—let not the denunciations of those men that pretend to be the peculiar friends of the President, lead you into error. Their aim is to force you into absolute and declared hostility to the President. If you manifest your disapprobation of any man or any measure that has connection with the President, you are at once pronounced his bitter enemies—and, usurping the prerogatives of the Pope, these people issue an edict of excommunication against you. You are told that the cabinet is a unit, and unless you slavishly submit to and swear by everything that every man connected with the cabinet does, you are no democrat, and the sworn enemy of the President. Say to those who arrogantly assume to dictate all that you are to think, to say, and to like, that you are not slaves. Who gave any press, to any man, or to any coterie,

the right and the power to command into silence the free citizens of this country?

These people are engaged in the congenial work of degrading honest and independent men, and of elevating that miserable tribe of unclean bootlicks, who ever attend the steps of men in place and power. They erect the officers of government into deities, and bespatter them with their idolatrous adulations and fulsome flatteries. The nation is sick of such fawning slaves, and such ceaseless flatteries. But, while all honest, right minded and independent men should despise the base tribe that we speak of, it is endeavoring to poison the mind of the executive against them, they ought studiously to guard against any imprudence and violence. Up to this time, they have not by word or deed justified any of the abuse that has been heaped on them. They may continue this course, unmoved by the malignity of their libellers, is our sincere desire.

Our object in referring to this matter is not to complain of the President—nothing could be further from our wish. He has our full confidence and respect—for he has been unflinching in his devotion and allegiance to the principles and creed of the democratic party. But our object is to show that one press, at least, is candid and manly enough to declare that no coterie in this free country has the right or the power to muzzle the people—to throttle them and to stifle their voice.

These people are going too far. They merit rebuke and we will not fail in administering it. We have greatly mistaken the character of President Pierce, if he desires to be erected into a god and worshipped by the democratic party. We have not seen any emanation from him claiming the homage exacted by the emperors of China. He has not yet claimed the sun as his brother, and the moon as his sister, and if we are not mistaken in his character nothing would more disgust him than for senseless flatterers to set up that claim for him. General Pierce is a good man. He is a great man—but he is a mortal man. Others may do as they choose—but for our part, we will debate ourselves into the worshipper of no man. We can respect, and admire, and love—but cannot worship mortal man.

THE RESULT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION.

We congratulate the democracy of the Union on the brilliant victory achieved in the Keystone State. The *Pennsylvanian* thus speaks of it:

"The smoke of Tuesday's contest, having only partially cleared away, we are not enabled to take a survey of the whole field of battle. From the glimpse of it we have, however, we feel warranted to say, that the result is a triumph for the democracy. The *Pennsylvanian* thus speaks of it: 'The smoke of Tuesday's contest, having only partially cleared away, we are not enabled to take a survey of the whole field of battle. From the glimpse of it we have, however, we feel warranted to say, that the result is a triumph for the democracy. The *Pennsylvanian* thus speaks of it: 'The smoke of Tuesday's contest, having only partially cleared away, we are not enabled to take a survey of the whole field of battle. From the glimpse of it we have, however, we feel warranted to say, that the result is a triumph for the democracy. 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